Carl Vie outgrown Protestantism?

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Have We Outgrown Protestantism

Ps. 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Rom. 1:17 The just shall live by faith.

Intro. This is the anniversary Sunday of the Reformation. It furnishes a profitable meditation for thoughtful minds.

Have we outgrown Protestantism?
Is the Reformation a completed task?
Was it worth while?

I. The forces that were behind the Reformation

1. The Renaissance - the intellectual revolt against the Church & State.
   a - Medieval stagnation & darkness
   b - The causes of the awakening.
      (1) The Crusades - a common aim for both church & state.
      (2) Discovery & exploration
      (3) Philosophy & education. restricted to clergy

Reclaiming universal ideas

   c - The Rebirth of the mind - Religion, govt, education, literature & art - all affected.
      Its earliest application to the religious life.
      Individual freedom to read & interpret the Scriptures

2. A moral revolt against the corruption in contemporary Xty. Savanorola in Florence, a few yrs before Luther. Christ proclaimed King of Florence. Savonorola burnd, the movement a spent force, but the idea of righteousness stuck.

3. The ecclesiastical revolt. Before Luther, was Wyclif, John Huss, Jerome of Prague. Theirs were the voices of revolt and vision, ~~and they had to pay the price.~~ But they ~~but they had~~ paid the price, being martyred for the Truth sake.

4. The religious revolt, climaxing in Martyn Luther's experience.

A hunger in the human heart for direct communion with God, thru the one mediator, Jesus Christ. A corrupt fallible Pope and a hardened immoral clergy were not fit to stand between the hungry soul and God.

Luther's experience while climbing the 28 steps of the sancta scala. "The just shall live by faith." Then it was that the soul was swung wide open to grace forgiveness, peace, reconciliation, inner tranquility of soul.

This religious experience of Luther was the ~~nut-shell~~ ground of the whole Reformation. It is the key to its understanding.

III. The Two Great Principles of Protestantism.

1. Justification by Faith.

A change from a saving church to a saving Christ.

From human priests to the divine-human High Priest, Jesus Christ.

This put new life and spiritual power into the church itself.

Also a great social and political power was generated by it. Civic reform and democracy given a great impetus.

Out if it grew the great missionary vision.
William Carey's missionary vision
Robert Raikes's sunday school dream
John Wesley's evangelistic passion.
Roger Williams dream of a free church in a free state.

Two Principle of Protestantism

2. The Authority of the Bible.

a- It provided the needed authority in the (y place of the discredited pope and hiearch
b- A neede corrective to fanaticism, emotionalism and rationalism.
c-Its reading produced intelligence and promote d the cause of education of the masses.
d- it developed a sense of personal responsibility.
e- This open Bible led to the many denominations But which was better, one denomination held together by the compulsion of a pope, in which mind, conscience, and individuality were suppressed, or many demominations resulting from the free choice of men under the guidance of Spirit of God in search of Truth and Righteousness?

And which would you have today? We are striving for unity, but not of the compulsory kind.

III. The Two Principles of Protestantism are still vital and active.

Our enlarged sense of the Word of God,

Our saving Faith in a world of enlightened indifference.

Sailors welcomed the winds; it was the calm they dreaded.

Faith is the inner power that moves us along, [illegible]